

United States Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration



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## EDA e-NEWS 2000

Chester J. Straub, Acting Assistant Secretary

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### **PRESIDENT CLINTON PROPOSES INCREASED FUNDING AND MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION IN FY 2001**

**P**resident Clinton's Fiscal Year (FY) 2001 Budget request to Congress includes \$437 million for EDA. The budget request includes \$92.2 million to support Administration initiatives to help Native American communities (\$49.2 million), the Mississippi Delta region (\$10 million), communities suffering major economic adjustment problems (\$10 million), and E-Commerce initiative (\$23 million) by helping communities expand the infrastructure capacity necessary to attract high-tech business and jobs. "These new Clinton Administration initiatives will help the Nation's most distressed communities meet the major economic development challenges of the new economy," said Acting Assistant Secretary for Economic Development Chester J. Straub, Jr. A total of \$344.8 million supports EDA programs, salaries and expenses. "EDA's comprehensive array of program tools provide the resources needed to bring the benefits of technology-based economic development to communities facing structural economic change. "We have targeted funds to support private investment, job creation, and workforce and business development in Native American communities, the Mississippi Delta, and communities impacted by the loss of major employers due to changing trade patterns or other factors," Straub said.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY**

**A**t the dawn of the new millennium, even though we are experiencing the longest economic expansion in our nation's history, the need for assistance to economically distressed communities remains.

Minority unemployment is high and the manufacturing sector continues to decline, further putting a burden on our inner cities and rural communities that suffer from years of neglect. And, maybe most critical of all, there is credible evidence of a growing digital divide. I am proud of the job EDA is doing in offering opportunity to those among us who have the least.

As we enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, EDA is guided by three basic goals:

- Fostering Involvement;
- Encouraging Innovation; and,
- Leveraging Investment

Fostering Involvement means creating the broad-based collaborative partnerships that are necessary and critical for analyzing state, regional, and local economic and community development issues.

Encouraging Innovation means learning what other communities are trying, relating their experiences to your own needs and then taking a calculated risk. It means having the vision and commitment to create new vehicles for economic development.

Leveraging Investment means maximizing the role EDA plays in helping bridge the economic development funding gap in American communities by ensuring that agency investments attract and leverage capital from the private sector.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century presents many challenges for communities as they strive to adapt to a new, technology-based, global economy. EDA will continue to adapt in order to assure that all of our Nation's communities are given the opportunity to reach long-term, sustainable futures. This is an exciting time in our Nation's history and for EDA.

Chester A. Straub

**DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBERT MALLETT IN  
GEORGIA TO ANNOUNCE MINORITY SERVING  
INSTITUTIONS GRANT**

**D**eputy Secretary of Commerce Robert L. Mallett traveled to Atlanta, Georgia on February 11, 2000, to announce the award of a \$50,000 grant to Morehouse College. The grant is designed to help boost minority technology education and high-tech job opportunities by redesigning a campus building so that it can accommodate an integrated telecommunications program.

The Morehouse grant is a product of EDA's Local Technical Assistance Program, which helps communities solve specific economic development problems, respond to development opportunities, and build and expand local organizational capacity in distressed areas.

**EDA EMPLOYEES RECEIVE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
GOLD AND SILVER AWARD**

**S**ecretary Daley has awarded 14 EDA employees the Department's highest honors as part of the Department's 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Honor Awards Program.

David Culberston, Vicki Hendershot and Larry Jacob received the Gold Medal, the Department's highest honor, for their efforts this year to assist the tornado impacted communities of Oklahoma and Texas through the development of damage assessments.

Darice Ahrensbrak, Pat Flynn, Joe Hurney, Fred Jaakkola, Andrew Knight, Ken Kukovich, Herb Lenchner, Nat Maryn, Althea Thompson and Wendy Tucker also received the Gold Metal for their efforts last year in preparing and presenting EDA's financial statements which resulted in the first "clean audit" in the agency's history.

Cynthia Torraco received the Silver Medal. Cynthia has not only assumed greater responsibility within her regional office but has also been recognized as a leader both in Chicago and throughout the agency.

**EDA ANNOUNCES THE JOHN E. CORRIGAN  
PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE**

**E**DA announces the founding of the John E. "Jack" Corrigan Award for Excellence in Economic Development. Established in the year 2000, the Corrigan Award honors EDA staff for their excellence in achieving EDA's mission of providing economic development assistance in distressed areas.

The Corrigan Award is named in tribute to John E. Corrigan for the singular distinction he earned in the field of economic development during his 29 years of exemplary service in EDA. The award is the highest recognition of public service within the bureau.

The first Corrigan Award will be presented during the EDA National Forum on Economic Development to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 30 to June 1, 2000.

**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT 2000**

**I**n celebration of EDA's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary and in tribute to our working partnership with local communities across the country to stimulate economic growth and development, the bureau is inaugurating the Award for Excellence in Economic Development. The award recognizes outstanding economic development activities of national importance.

The Award for Excellence in Economic Development recognizes innovative and well-implemented economic development activities of national significance. The award is designed to showcase successful activities and inspire innovation.

Nominations this year, will be accepted for excellence in three categories of economic development: urban or suburban; rural or Native American. Nominees will be evaluated by a selection panel appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Economic Development. Award recipients will receive a commemorative plaque and be invited to share their successful strategies and processes with the public at the EDA National Forum on Economic Development.

A brochure providing the nomination form, rules of the competition and further information on the award may be obtained electronically on EDA's Web site ([www.doc.gov/eda](http://www.doc.gov/eda)) or by contacting the Office of

Communications and Congressional Liaison, Room 7814A, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone: 202-482-2309.

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2000**

**Atlanta Regional Office**

September 10-13  
Atlanta, GA

**Austin Regional Office\***

May 30-June 1  
Albuquerque, NM

**Chicago Regional Office**

April 5-7  
Chicago, IL

**Denver Regional Office**

July 5-7  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Philadelphia Regional Office**

March 5-7  
Atlantic City, NJ

**Seattle Regional Office**

April 30-May 2  
Anchorage, AK

\*2000 Host Region for the EDA National Forum on Economic Development

**EDA Regional Directors**

**William J. Day, Jr. - Atlanta, GA**  
(404) 730-3002 / [wday1@doc.gov](mailto:wday1@doc.gov)

**Pedro R. Garza - Austin, TX**  
(512) 916-5595 / [pgarza@doc.gov](mailto:pgarza@doc.gov)

**C. Robert Sawyer - Chicago, IL**  
(312) 353-8143 / [rsawyer@doc.gov](mailto:rsawyer@doc.gov)

**Anthony J. Preite - Denver, CO**  
(303) 844-4715 / [apreite@doc.gov](mailto:apreite@doc.gov)

**Paul M. Raetsch - Philadelphia, PA**  
(215) 597-4603 / [praetsch@doc.gov](mailto:praetsch@doc.gov)

**A. Leonard Smith - Seattle, WA**  
(206) 220-7660 / [lsmith7@doc.gov](mailto:lsmith7@doc.gov)

**AUSTIN REGIONAL OFFICE HOSTS EDA'S  
THIRD NATIONAL FORUM ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
"E-COMMERCE AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: MEETING THE CHALLENGES"**

The Third National Forum on Economic Development (NFED) will be hosted by the Austin Regional Office from May 31, 2000 to June 1, 2000 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and replaces the Region's yearly annual conference. EDA plans to make the National forum a yearly function with each region and headquarters afforded the opportunity of hosting the event. The 2000 forum theme supports Department of Commerce reports on the digital economy and is intended to address a full spectrum of issues that will assure the sustainability of America's communities in a global marketplace.

EDA Headquarters developed and inaugurated national forums for the purpose of bringing together federal, national, state, and local economic development professionals to exchange information on state-of-the-art practices and future trends in economic development. The first forum was held in 1997 and the second in 1999. The forums were held at the U.S. Department of Commerce and each registered over 500 people.

Secretary of Commerce William A. Daley and Deputy Secretary of Commerce Robert Mallett have participated and made presentations at EDA forums. At the 1999 NFED, Secretary Daley announced that EDA's Excellence in Economic Development Awards would be presented for the first time at the 2000 NFED. EDA forum partners have included the National Association of Counties (1997) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) (1999). EDA's partner for the 2000 NFED is the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM). Registration and other forum details are available on the USCM Web site: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org) or the EDA Web site: [www.doc.gov/eda](http://www.doc.gov/eda).



**GENERAL FORUM SCHEDULE**

**Tuesday - May 30, 2000**

Registration	8 am.
Sandia National Lab Tour	10 am, 11 am; 1 pm, 2 pm
Reception (Pueblo Cultural Center)	6 pm

**Wednesday - May 31, 2000**

Registration/Coffee	8 am
Opening Plenary	9 am
Workshops:	10:45 am
(1) Telecommunications 101: A Primer for ED Professionals	
(2) Key Legislative Issues on the Digital Frontier	
(3) Filling the Skills Void in a Knowledge-Based Community	
(4) Small Town America: Falling Through the Net	

**Luncheon**

Workshops:	12 pm
(1) Identifying the Digital Divide: What it Means for Your Community	2 pm
(2) Correcting Your Community: Government Initiatives	
(3) Start-Up Capital for High-Tech Entrepreneurs	
(4) Maximizing E-Commerce Opportunities in Distressed Urban Areas	

**Thursday - June 1, 2000**

Registration/Coffee	8 am
General Session	9 am
Workshops:	10:45 am
(1) The EDA Role in Technology-Led Economic Development	
(2) Connecting Your Community to Corporate and Foundation Support	
(3) Accessing International E-Markets	
(4) Technology Needs of the Native American Population	

**Annual Awards Luncheon**

Roundtables with Federal Agencies	12 pm
	2 pm